

MEDIA RELEASE

Operalab presents

THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK By Grigori Frid

A Reality Opera

Xenia Hanusiak - Soprano
Brett Dean - Musical Director
Helen Herbertson - Director
Ben Cobham - Designer

Direct from seasons in New York, Berlin, Amsterdam and Washington comes the Australian Premiere of this remarkable tour de force music theatre work.

Described by The Australian as the 'High Priestess of Harmony' Xenia Hanusiak takes on the role of Anne Frank. Internationally recognised as a leader of his generation Brett Dean conducts the chamber ensemble with the formidable Green Room award winning creative team of Helen Herbertson and Ben Cobham transforming our notion of the operatic experience.

The Diary of Anne Frank - the testimony that has sold over 20 million copies and translated into 55 languages received its operatic premiere in St. Petersburg in 1977. A year later, Frid smuggled the score to an American lawyer, who arranged a performance at the University of Syracuse.

A one- hour, solo libretto, almost literally taken from the original diary entries, is integrated into a musical-lyrical narrative. Its emotional content takes equally into account the tragedy of the events and Anne Frank's poetical expressive strength. Anne's unshakable will power combined with the palpable score provides an unequalled experience.

"Anne Frank sings? Surely, one might think, the truth of her diary is enough... but no, the operatic version is a sensitive and dignified portrait, thanks to careful decisions made by the composer, Grigori Frid. The accompaniment is punchy: a lot of it has to do with spiky ostinatos of anxiety or wistfulness, and many of the sequences are given dance rhythms." (New York Times)

This timely work will resonate with audiences of all ages.

Venue: Beckett Theatre, The CUB Malthouse 113 Sturt St, Southbank

Dates: 8 - 11 November

Prices: \$39.00 / \$20.00 groups of 10 or more: Adult: \$35.00 / Conc: \$18.00

Time: 8.00pm (11 November at 6.30pm)

Bookings: 9685 5111 or www.malthousetheatre.com.au

Media Enquiries: Tatia Sloley Publicity

Email: marytsp@tpg.com.au Ph: 03 9419 8837 Mob: 0415 745 910

